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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Prank A. Sieverts Deputy Coordinator for Prisener of War and Missing in Action Martons Department of State

Bruce L. Heller Commander, USM (P) Chief, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Branch Resources and Installations Division Directorate for Intelligence (Research Center) Defense Intelligence Agency

Mr. Roger E. Shields Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) International Economic Affairs and Prisoner of Wor/Missing in Action Affairs

FROM

William W. Wells Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT

1. Americans Remaining in Saigon and Reported Capture of Two Americans Near Yung Tau

2. American Prisoners, Including War Wounded, Allegedly Still Held in Vietnam

Attached as of possible interest to you is a report resulting from the debriefings of



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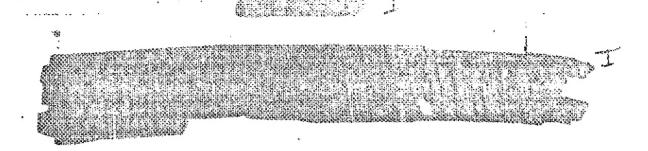
Enclosure 8 (S-56,169/DB-4)

(6)

The information on the two Americans living at the international Red Gress compound in Saigan in May 1976 is included for your information, although possibly these two individuals are no longer in Vietnam. We have taken no further action we are giving this report no further dissemination.

William K. Wells

Attachment: Report as Stated FIR-317/09155-76



FIR-317/09155-76

COUNTRY: VIETNAM

DOI : LATE MARCH-JULY 1976

SUBJECT: 1. AMERICANS REMAINING IN SAIGON AND REPORTED

CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICANS NEAR VUNG TAU

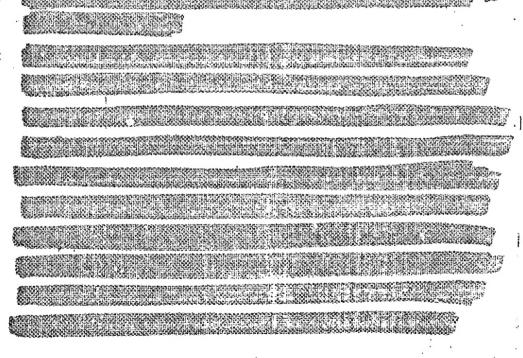
2. AMERICAN PRISONERS, INCLUDING WAR WOUNDED,

ALLEGEDLY STILL BEING HELD IN VIETNAM

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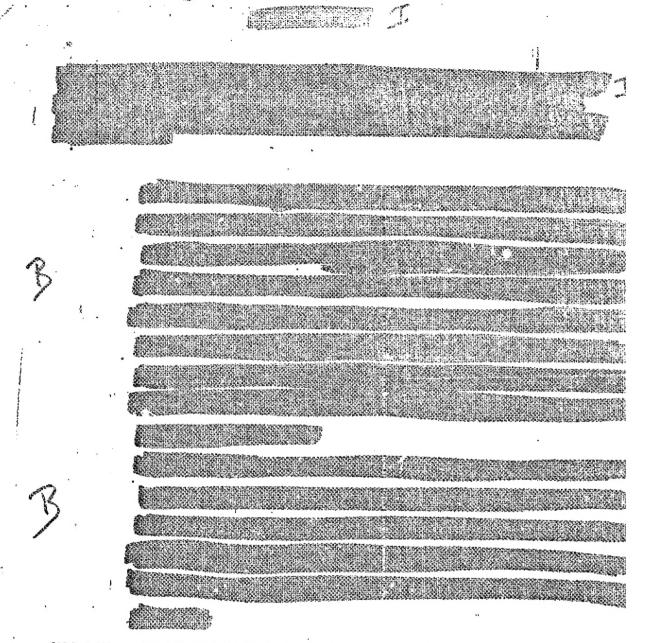
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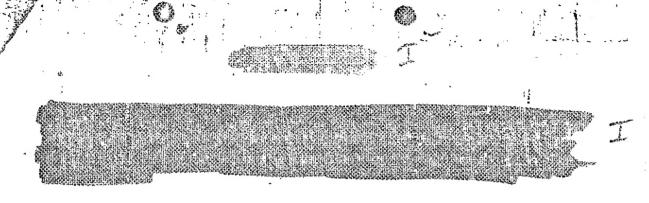
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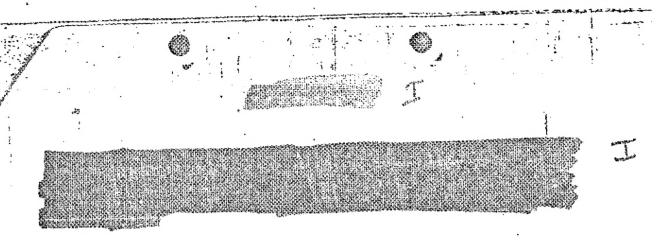


SUMMARY. AS OF MID-MAY 1976 TWO AMERICANS WHO WERE FORMERLY EMPLOYED AT LONG BINH BASE WERE LIVING IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMPOUND IN SAIGON. THEIR NICKNAMES AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION ARE GIVEN. IN LATE NOVEMBER 1975, THE COMMUNISTS CLAIMED THE CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICAN AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE IN VUNG TAU AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES THERE HELD A MOCK TRIAL





CADRE WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO SAIGON TOLD A SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONTACT THAT HE HAS SEEN "MANY" AMERICAN PRISONERS IN HANOI WHO WERE SUFFERING FROM WAR WOUNDS OR MENTAL DISORDERS. IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICERS TOLD A SAIGON BLACK MARKETEER THAT SERIOUSLY ILL AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE STILL BEING HELD IN NORTH VIETNAM BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS FEARED THEIR RELEASE WOULD HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION. IN EARLY JULY 1976 A NORTH VIETNAMESE SECURITY OFFICIAL PROCESSING A GROUP DEPARTING VIETNAM AT TAN SON NUST AIRPORT, WHEN PURPOSELY PROVOKED BY A QUESTION ON AMERICAN PRISONERS. STILL IN VIETNAM, REPLIED THAT "THEY WOULD BE HANDLED SEPARATELY." END SUMMARY.



1. TWO MALE AMERICANS WERE LIVING IN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (IRC), COMPOUND IN SAIGON AS OF MID-MAY 1976. BOTH MEN FORMERLY WERE EMPLOYED AT LONG BINH BASE

SAN THE TWO AMERICANS APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS BEFORE 22 MAY 1976.

- 2. DNE OF THE MEN WAS NAMED "JOHNNY" OR JIMMY" (LNU) HE WAS 28-30 YEARS OLD, APPROXIMATELY 170 POUNDS, AND 5 FEET 8
  INCHES TALL. HE HAD CURLY DARK BROWN HAIR WITH A GOATEE, BROWN EYES, FAIR COMPLEXION, MUCH BODY HAIR, AND NO NOTICEABLE SCARS. HE WORE GLASSES AND HAD A MANNERISM WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS SHRUGGING HIS SHOULDERS OFTEN. THIS MAN WAS KNOWN TO SPEAK ONLY ENGLISH. HIS HEALTH APPEARED TO BE GOOD.
- 3. THE SECOND MAN WAS NAMED "BILL" (LNU). HE WAS IN HIS EARLY 30'S, WAS LESS THAN 5 FEET 8 INCHES TALL, AND WEIGHED ABOUT 180 POUNDS. HE HAD DARK BROWN HAIR, A RUDDY COMPLEXION, AND NO NOTICEABLE MANNERISMS. IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH, HE SPOKE SOME VIETNAMESE AND A LITTLE FRENCH.

4. IN LATE NOVEMBER 1975 WHILE IN VUNG TAU, WAS TOLD TWO AMERICANS AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE SMALLER OF TWO MOUNTAIN AREAS NEAR BACK BEACH IN VUNG TAU. THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES HAD REQUIRED THEM TO GO TO THE CITY CENTER WHERE THEY SAW TWO AMERICANS AND ABOUT 20 VIETNAMESE TIED TOGETHER BEING MARCHED THROUGH THE STREETS. THE AUTHORITIES STATED THESE PRISONERS HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN THE SMALLER MOUNTAIN AREA, WHICH WAS PLACED OFF LIMITS DECAUSE OF THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF RESISTANCE FORCES THERE. DID NOT PROVIDE WITH PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE AMERICANS THEY SAW. ON A SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO VUNG TAU SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, HEARD OVER LOUDSPEAKERS THAT A MOCK TRIAL FOR THESE PRISONERS WAS CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN BEACH AREA, AT WHICH THE COMMUNIST PROSECUTORS SAID THAT ANYONE BEARING ARMS AGAINST THE COMMUNIST REGIME WOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH. NO PRISONERS WERE PRESENT AT THE TRIAL AND NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF AMERICANS WAS MADE DURING THE TRIAL. ALTHOUGH ALL PRISONERS WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH, DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THE AMERICANS WERE

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EX-COLONEL CAPTURED ON THAT OCCASION HAD BEEN KILLED.

(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: WHETHER THE TWO CAPTURED INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS "AMERICANS" WERE ACTUALLY NON-AMERICAN CAUCASIANS CANNOT BE DETERMINED. ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THESE "AMERICANS" WERE INVOLVED IN RESISTANCE ACTIVITIES, THEY POSSIBLY WERE MERELY IN HIDING IN VUNG TAU, WHICH IS A WELL KNOWN AREA FOR ESCAPE FROM VIETNAM BY BOAT. NO FURTHER INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED ON THE CONDITION, TREATMENT AND FATE OF THESE "AMERICANS.")

S. IN MAY 1976,

SAID A FRIEND OF HIS TOLD OF SEEING

"MANY" MARICAN PRISONERS IN THE HANGI AREA. THE FRIEND ADDED

THAT ALL OF THE PRISONERS WERE EITHER SERIOUSLY INJURED, I.E.

CRIPPLED BY WAR WOUNDS OR SUFFERING FROM MENTAL DISORDERS

RELATING TO THEIR LONG IMPRISONMENT OR HARSH TREATMENT.

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(HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE TIME FRAME FOR THE OBSERVATION OF AMERICAN PRISONERS IS UNKNOWN. SINCE SOME OF THESE AMERICANS WERE REPORTEDLY SUFFERING FROM WAR WOUNDS, THEY COULD POSSIBLY BE PRISONERS OF WAR.)

- VIETNAMESE CIRL

  SAID THAT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS NVA OFFICERS

  SAID THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS WERE STILL BEING HELD

  IN NORTH VIETNAM. THEY ALSO TOLD HER THAT SINCE THESE

  PRISONLAS WERE ALL SICK OR BADLY INJURED, THE DEMOCRATIC

  REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) AUTHORITIES WERE AFRAID OF A POSSIBLE

  UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION SHOULD THEY BE RELEASED.

  (HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE TIME FRAME FOR THE CONTINUED

  DETENTION OF THESE AMERICAN PRISONERS IS UNKNOWN.)
  - AT TAN SON NHUT AIRPORT WHO WAS PROCESSING A GROUP OF FOREIGNERS

WHO HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM, WAS

DELICERATELY PROVOKED BY ONE OF THEM

ON THE SUBJECT OF AMERICANS STILL IMPRISONED. WHEN

WAS ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO "MORE THAN 10 AMERICANS

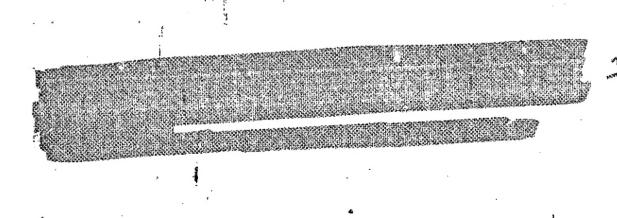
STILL IN VIETNAMESE JAILS, REPLIED THAT "THEY WOULD A

BE HANDLED SEPARATELY."

INTERPRETED THIS REPLY TO

BE AN ADMISSION BY THE NVA OFFICERS THAT SOME AMERICANS

WERE STILL IMPRISONED IN VIETNAM.



SUBJECT: 1. AMERICANS REMAINING IN SAIGON AND REPORTED
CAPTURE OF TWO AMERICANS NEAR YOUR TAD
2. AMERICAN PRISONERS, INCLUDING WAR MOURDID,
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